



Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities

Celebrating 34 Years of Leadership & Advocacy

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MEMBERS

Janet A. Neal
President

John B. Troost
1st Vice President

Wan Chun Chang
2nd Vice President

Alexia Teran
Treasurer

Michael G. Gureckas
Maria Mustelier-Parrish
Harley D. Rubenstein
Kecia Weller
Wendy L. Welt
Sheila D. Wright

MINUTES OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities was held on Wednesday, August 19, 2009, in Room 140 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Janet A. Neal at 1:12 p.m. The following were present:

ATTENDANCE

Janet A. Neal, President
John B. Troost, 1st Vice President
Wan Chun Chang, 2nd Vice President
Alexia Teran, Treasurer
Harley Rubenstein
Kecia B. Weller
Wendy L. Welt
Sheila Wright

Excused Absence

Michael G. Gureckas
Maria Mustelier-Parrish

Board of Supervisors

Rhonda Rangel, Staff
Mireya Rivera, Staff
Emma De Jesus, Staff
Audra Galang, Staff

Los Angeles County

Floyd McDonald, OAAC

Access Services, Inc.

Luis Pacheco

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JULY 15, 2009

On motion of Commissioner Welt, seconded by Commissioner Troost, duly carried by the following vote: Ayes: Commissioners Neal, Troost, Chun Chang, Teran, Welt, and Wright; Nays: None; Abstentions: Commissioners Rubenstein and Weller, the minutes of July 15, 2009 were approved as submitted.

President Neal presented a Certificate of Appreciation to past President Kecia Weller for a job well done during her term. President Neal expressed her appreciation for all the support given to the Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Daniel Garcia provided public comment on several issues about Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (MTA) TAP card program and inaccessibility for wheelchair users.

Dennis Wood commented on an apartment complex for disabled and senior residents in Alhambra. He would like the County to investigate the redevelopment of this complex because of safety issues.

Linda Block commented on the continuation of Measure Q, which will raise rent in Los Angeles County. She also commented on President Obama's health care reform bill.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Neal reported on the Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.) training to be conducted by Los Angeles Fire Department, Disaster Preparedness Unit, Thursdays starting August 27 to October 8, 2009 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Hartsfield-Davis Stentorians Training Center, located at 1409 West Vernon Avenue, Los Angeles. Everyone is encouraged to be a Volunteer Certified Disaster Worker for earthquake preparedness.

The Annual Black Firefighter's Social and Fund-Raising Dance, to be held at the African-American Firefighter Museum, located at 1401 Central Avenue, Los Angeles on Saturday, October 24, 2009 from 9:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. Tickets go on sale September, 15, 2009.

The Los Angeles City Council's Budget and Finance Committee is considering eliminating the Department on Disability and Commission on Disability as they now exist and merge their roles and functions into a single entity comprised of the Department of Aging, Commission on the Status of Women, Human Relations Commission and the Commission on Children, Youth and Families. This will severely limit the ability of people with disabilities to advocate for services they need and issues important to the community. These entities will also face losing their individual funding.

Commissioners were asked to be prepared to assist with the different events committees supporting the Commission on Disabilities. There needs to be more participation by the Commissioners.

Commissioner Teran added there needs to be clear notification to the Commissioners on dates and times of the different committee event meetings.

STAFF REPORT

Ms. Rangel informed the Commission there will be a Brown Act Workshop on Thursday, September 24, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Hall of Administration Building, 500 West Temple Street Room 381-B. The training is not mandatory and all Commissioners are invited to attend. The workshop flyer was distributed.

The Los Angeles Unified School District will be sponsoring "A Family Fun Day", to be held Saturday, October 10, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Aurora Elementary School, located at 1050 East 52nd Place, Los Angeles. A flyer was distributed.

PRESENTATION FROM FOUNDER OF *TOGETHER*, A CULVER CITY BASED HUMAN RELATIONS ORGANIZATION

Rebecca Rona reported on people of cultural diversity with different ethnic backgrounds, and the importance of meeting together and dialogue. Her program entitled "Friendship Circles" comprised of 12 to 15 participants deal with prejudice and the prejudice within our communities.

After discussion, President Neal thanked Ms. Rona for her informative presentation.

PRESENTATION ON BUDGET CUTS TO THE MEDI-CAL AND IHSS PROGRAM

Joseph Villella from the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA) presented a report entitled, "California's Budget Saga". This was a brief budget comparison based on the 18-month California Budget, the February Budget and the Revision of Enacted Budget. Their organization looks to advance the rights of immigrants in Los Angeles as well as refugees. Their areas of work included the creation of best practices to integrate immigrants into the State of California as well as in the society.

After discussion, President Neal thanked Mr. Joseph Villella for his informative report.

(2nd Vice President Chang joined the meeting.)

PRESENTATION ON COUNTY MEDICAL FACILITIES AND SERVICES TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Mr. Daniel Garcia, a system change advocate, presented his findings on Community Rehabilitation Services. After his presentation, he requested the Commission to look more into the availability of the Patient's Bill of Rights.

After discussion, President Neal requested Mr. Garcia to forward him more information about his complaint.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee

Chair Neal reported to the Committee members will meet after the regular meeting at 3:00 p.m.

B. Public Relations Committee

Radio Program – Disability Network, KTYM 1460 AM
No reportable action was taken.

C. Events Committee

The Committee has received several nominees for the 2009 Access Awards. Winners will be announced at the September Commission meeting. Ms. Glenda Wina will be this year's host and Outta Sight will perform. The Los Angeles County Fire Department will present the Colors and lead the pledge on October 19, 2009.

D. Bill Tainted Scholarship Program

The Events Committee met with First District scholarship recipient, David Ritter and his parents at the August 12, 2009 Events Committee meeting. The Scholarship Board Presentation will take place on Tuesday, September 15, 2009. There will be a reception for the recipients and their guests following the Board presentation that will take place in Room 864 of the Hall of Administration. Ms. Rangel will send out information about the Board presentation and reception.

E. Community Service Committee

No reportable action was taken.

TRANSPORTATION

A. Access Services, Inc. (ASI) Report

Kurt Hagen was not present. Mr. Floyd McDonald from Office of Affirmative Action informed the Commission Mr. Hagen has been on leave but will be returning within the week. Once Mr. Hagen returns, he will be able to provide the Commission with a report.

B. LA County Transportation Authority (METRO) Report

Mr. Chip Hazen reported the wheelchair marking and tether strap program for mobility devices on buses. He and his staff had a demonstration about wheelchair securement issues and possible solutions.

After discussion, Mr. Hazen was asked to report back after his training in Florida to review other systems that do not require tether straps to secure wheelchairs on buses.

C. Office of Affirmative Action Compliance Report

In the absence of Mr. Gordon Anthony, Mr. Floyd McDonald reported that the transition plan was completed on June 30, 2009. There were 59,000 barriers in Los Angeles County and 53% were addressed and corrected.

President Neal questioned who would have jurisdiction about barriers or lack of access at a gyms, health club or spa. Mr. McDonald responded as those kinds of complaints should be brought to the attention of the law enforcement jurisdiction within the Federal Government and the ADA.

ITEMS NOT ON THE POSTED AGENDA FOR CONSIDERATION ON A FUTURE AGENDA

No reportable action was taken.

Announcements

No reportable action was taken.

Adjournments

On motion of Commissioner Welt, seconded by Commissioner Weller, and unanimously carried, the regular meeting was adjourned at 3:14 p.m.

GUESTS

Chip Hazen, ADA Compliance Officer METRO
Cindy Vito, LACCC
Daniel Garcia, Community Rehabilitation Services, Inc.
Darlene Geyer, Accommodating Ideas, Inc.
Dennis Wood, Client Coalition Center
Dianne Nosch, Accommodating Ideas, Inc.
Francisco Vidrio, Get Involved Productions
Jane Goodman, Total Recall, Inc.
Jesse Padilla, East Los Angeles Regional Center
Joseph Villela, Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles
Kevin Thompson
Linda Block
Magda Carrero, East Los Angeles Regional Center
Michelle Baxley, Destiny World Travel
Rebecca Rona, *Together*
Ria Studio